AMENDMENTS

In the specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on p. 4, line 4 as follows:

The present invention employs a wire member made of either a shape memory alloy, preferably a nickel-titanium alloy known as NITINOL, spring metal alloys such as spring stainless steel or other elastic metal or plastic alloys, or composite material, such as carbon fiber. It is preferable that the wire member have either a generally circular, semi-circular, triangular or quadrilateral transverse cross-sectional profile. Where a shape memory alloy material is employed, pre-programmed shape memory is imparted to the wire member by helically winding the wire member about a cylindrical programming mandrel having an outer diametric dimension substantially the same, preferably within a tolerance of about +0 to -15%, as the ePTFE substrate and annealing the programming mandrel and the wire member at a temperature and for a time sufficient to impart the desired shape memory to the wire member. After annealing, the wire member is removed from the programming mandrel, straightened and helically wound about the abluminal wall surface of an ePTFE tubular member at a temperature below the A_s of the shape memory alloy used to form the wire member.

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